



August 20, 2016

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OREGON OPERATIONS OFFICE

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EPA-REGION 10

U.S. EPA
ATTN: Harbor Comments
805 SW Broadway, Suite 500
Portland, OR 97205

Our business, in a joint effort with others along the Portland waterfront, is diligently working to create an official tourist destination spot. As a physician-owned medical center located on the Willamette River, a plan like the one the EPA is proposing for cleaning up the river would be terrible for us. While we are working to increase travel and tourism industries, the EPA is discouraging it. Bringing in big equipment and creating a huge mess for 20+ years would only detract tourists from patronizing our locations. This would be detrimental to not only the economy along the waterfront, but Portland and Oregon's overall economy as well.

The EPA's plan would spell disaster for businesses here. The price tag to complete this massive project would fall back on us in the form of increased taxes, power, and water bills. Pacific Power already has every business owner along the waterfront maxed out when it comes to utility costs. They charge at least a third, if not 50%, more than other utility companies. We already pay taxes that we don't understand to get utilities. These increasing costs would result in a need to raise our prices even more. Doing so would put us at a great disadvantage when it comes to competing with other businesses in the area. We already struggle in the Fall and Winter to meet overhead expenses due to the drop of travel and tourism to the area. Increasing taxes and utility costs would only add to that struggle.

The EPA needs to explore all options for cleaning up the river, not just their own-- which, by the way, is based on data that is over 12 years old. Let's take a fresh look at statistics before moving forward with anything. They need to take into consideration everyone involved and how their project will affect them, especially businesses like ours. Lastly, before any cleanup process is started, the EPA should absolutely make certain the contamination sources are addressed. It doesn't make any sense whatsoever to dump billions of dollars into a cleanup effort if the contamination is continuing to be spilled into the river.

Sincerely,

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Owner

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Suite 390
Portland, OR 97201